

# The Volunteers of Wings

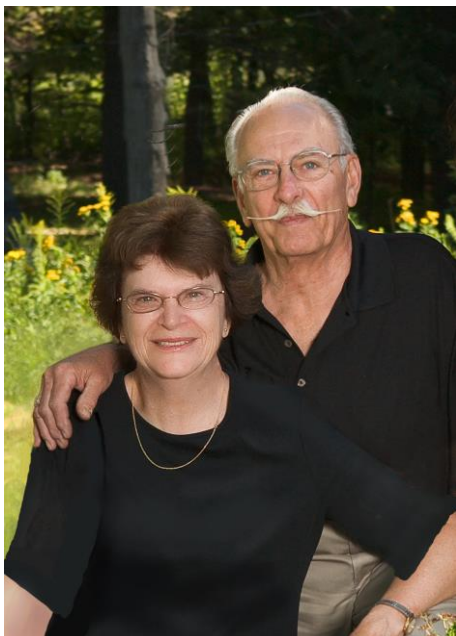
## The Volunteers of Wings



**NAN & GARY ZASTROW**  
**Founders of Wings-Established 1993**  
**In Loving Memory of son, Chad Zastrow**

Nan & Gary formed the non-profit organization in 1993 after the death of their son, Chad, and his fiancé, Jenny, ten weeks later. Both deaths were the result of suicide; and at the time, that was pretty much taboo.

Wings began as a small magazine that shared stories, memories, poems and inspiration to others. Writing for the magazine helped heal our pain, too. This extraordinary organization has grown and spread hope across the United States, Canada and even to some foreign countries. Today it continues with support groups, an online eLetter, seminars, and education and training. Adjusting to the times, due to the pandemic their in-person programs were moved to virtual. The greatest strength of the non-profit is that the volunteers serve with a heart.



**Sally and Clarence "Ole" Johnson**  
volunteers since 1993  
**In Loving Memory of nephew, Chad Zastrow**

Sally and Ole became instant volunteers. Chad Zastrow was their nephew, and their close family ties with Nan & Gary created their desire to walk through this journey with them. They have had various losses in their lives.

Sally and Ole, now retired from their careers, spend their time camping, golfing, and savor their time at their cabin, north of Wausau. Ole has a locksmith business. Sally quilts, gardens, and volunteers. They also spend time with their daughter, Jennifer, and grandchildren, Dustin and Paige.

They have been volunteers for many organizations including scouting, volunteer fire fighter, church, library, and other community organizations.

**ZOFIA LESCZYNSKI**

volunteer since June, 1994

**In Loving Memory of son, Kevin Lesczynski**

Zofia's son, Kevin, died at the age of 21. She admits she felt lost and unaware that she began the most difficult journey of her life. She received a complimentary issue of the Wings magazine in the mail—and immediately felt connected to someone who could relate to what she was feeling at the time. She and her husband, Gene, met with Nan and Gary days later. As they visited, a severe summer storm came up and all the power went out. They huddled around a candle, in the dark, and talked for hours about their loss. Nan recalls this “meeting” on page 85 in the book, *Blessed Are They That Mourn*. Both Gene and Zofia serve s long-term volunteers.



**KATHY ABT-GLYNN**

volunteer since 1999

**In Loving Memory of daughter, Kayla**

Kathy began her volunteer work with Wings in January 1999. Kathy's daughter, Kayla, died as the result of a tragic accident in 1997. After attending a class facilitated by Nan & Gary through Wings in 1998, Kathy found that that the new found path she wanted in life was to help and support others who also experienced a loss. Kathy also volunteers at her church for various activities. In 1999, Kathy married John Glynn—and both are volunteers. In her free time Kathy enjoys spending time with her children Seth, Jordan, Grace and her husband, John and grandchildren. She also enjoys cooking, gardening, scrapbooking, camping, fishing and shopping.

**JOHN GLYNN**

volunteer since 2000

**In Loving Memory of Kayla and other family,**

John works in the community in education. He enjoys camping with his family, and also fishing and working with vintage equipment. In 2002, he married Kathy and their combined families include six children and three grandchildren.

John enjoys his role in Wings doing technology and many things behind the scenes of each successful workshop and seminar. John is the go-to person for projects that Nan needs help with.





**Mark & Judi Brost**  
volunteers since 2011  
**In Loving Memory of daughter, Erin,**

Mark and Judi Brost, originally from Green Bay and Madison, both came to Wausau for their jobs in 1979. They met and married and lived in Wausau until fall of 2020. They since moved to Sedona, AZ but continue to support Wings in many capacities, virtually. In 2009, their daughter Erin died at the age of 25 as a result of addiction. Having heard about the Wings organization many years earlier, they contacted Nan and Gary and began attending the Wings programs. Not only did they gain much needed education and support from Wings, but now, as volunteers, have found some true friends in the Wings family. They feel honored to be able assist the organization in any way possible. In addition to their daughter Erin, they have a son, Matthew, who lives in Colorado. Mark and Judi are retired and enjoy travelling, hiking in AZ, and spending more time with their family and friends.

**Past Volunteers of  
Wings-a Grief Education Ministry**

Our volunteers are loyal and committed to the mission of Wings. Most are long-term volunteers. Some of our very active past volunteers include:

Sue Fox 2001-2016  
Pamela Misoni  
Karen Bentz  
Mary Mertinke  
Judy Lucas

Wings is an all volunteer non-profit organization that operates through sponsorship and memorial donations. There are no administrative fees or paid staff.